

Trees on Maine Street

∞ *The Project Canopy Bulletin* ∞

Mar—Apr 2015



Community Forestry Grants Announced

AUGUSTA - Project Canopy, a cooperative partnership between the Maine Forest Service and GrowSmart Maine, is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2014 Project Canopy Assistance Grants. A total of \$133,064.78 was awarded in 6 Planning and Education grants and 13 Tree Planting and Maintenance Grants. Planning Grants were awarded to Dixmont Conservation Commission, Farmington Conservation Commission, Town of Kennebunkport, Town of Monmouth, Kennebec Estuary Land Trust, and Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve. Planting grants were awarded to the City of Presque Isle, University of Maine – Farmington, Town of Pittsfield, Town of Fort Kent, City of Lewiston, City of Belfast, City of Ellsworth, Town of Greenville, Town of Dover-Foxcroft, Town of Milo, Town of Camden, Yarmouth Tree Committee, and Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District. Project Canopy received a total of 22 applications, 3 from new communities and organizations, with a total grant request of \$143,065.

Project Canopy Assistance Grants are available to state, county, and municipal governments, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations for developing and implementing community forestry projects and programs. Planting projects increase the health and livability of communities through sound tree planting and maintenance, while planning and education projects support sustainable community forestry management, and efforts to increase awareness of the benefits of trees and forests. All grants require a 50% match from the grant recipient in cash or in-kind services.

In Dixmont, the grant will help to transform a 100-acre town-owned woodlot into the Dixmont Town Forest, a carefully planned and managed demonstration forest. The project will be guided by a comprehensive forest management plan to improve the timber stand, protect the soils and wetlands, enhance the habitat for wildlife and encourage non-motorized recreational use of the forest. The project will also include educational outreach for local children and citizens, and efforts to identify and combat invasive species. Plans include partnerships with the Etna-Dixmont school, Project Learning Tree, the American Chestnut Foundation, and Unity College.

The Town of Pittsfield's comprehensive plan supports a safe and attractive pedestrian and bicycle network in the urban portion of town. In 2014, the MaineDOT implemented a major renovation of Somerset Avenue, which had not been paved for approximately 40 years. The town has focused all available funding into traffic calming measures such as sidewalks, crosswalks and signage. With its Project Canopy grant, the town proposes to continue its relationship with MDOT to create an entry point to the downtown on Somerset Avenue with the planting of trees. This project will replace aging trees in this portion of town, utilizing the efforts of local schools, committees, and organizations that engaged in revitalization efforts.

The students in the University of Maine at Farmington's First Year Seminar researched and wrote their successful grant application. Removal of 39 large trees during construction of the Emery Community Arts Center reduced carbon storage capacity on the UMF campus by 20,113 kg of carbon, a 6% carbon reduction. This Project Canopy Tree Planting Grant will fund the purchase of 42 trees and shrubs encompassing 11 species native to Maine. UMF students have measured changes in carbon storage on campus since 2010. They learn tree identification, forestry survey practices, and about the concept of carbon off-sets. The student experiences associated with this project stimulate public awareness of what constitutes a community forest, the role of forests in the community, and the benefits of long-term, urban tree management.

Project Canopy is funded by the USDA Forest Service Community Forestry Assistance Program. The USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program was authorized by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (PL95-313) and revised by the 1990 Farm Bill (PL101-624) to promote natural resource management in populated areas and improve quality of life.

PROJECT CANOPY

assists communities and nonprofit, grassroots organizations in building self-sustaining urban and community forestry programs with strong local support.

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News and Updates

SMA Announces its 2015 Urban Tree of the Year: Yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*).

The Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA), comprised of urban forestry professionals worldwide, has chosen yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*) as its 2015 Urban Tree of the Year.

The yearly selection must be adaptable to some harsh growing conditions and have strong ornamental traits. It is often a species or cultivar considered underutilized by urban foresters. The Tree of the Year program has been running for 19 years, and recent honorees include 'Vanessa' parrotia (2014), live oak (2013), Accolade elm (2012), and goldenrain tree (2011).

Columbia, Missouri Natural Resources Supervisor Brett O'Brien says, "Remarkably adaptable to our state's weather and site conditions, yellowwood is a tree which is not particularly rare but in my opinion is certainly not planted in our area nearly enough. It could be that it is not popularized because in un-irrigated turf areas it's apt to be a little slow; in my experience I have found that in landscape beds or irrigated areas it grows fairly quickly."

Indeed, the consensus is that yellowwood does well in a variety of urban conditions so long as it gets adequate water. It's best used in parks, wide tree lawns, or, with pruning, in narrow tree lawns. Yellowwood is hardy in Zones 4a to 8b and is native to East North America. It is a medium-maturing tree in the legume family that matures at 30-50 feet tall and 40 to 55 feet wide. It can handle high soil pH (up to 8.2) and is considered relatively pest free. Cornell's Urban Horticulture Institute says yellowwood is easy to transplant B&B or under 2-inch caliper bare root.

This tree has elegant year-round beauty. O'Brien admires the "pendulous fragrant white flowers, reminiscent of wisteria" and "the smooth, elephant-grey

to light brown bark of the tree's trunk as well as the lustrous reddish-brown stems." He says that a favorite yellowwood of his is located in downtown Columbia on the west side of a red brick building, in an unforgiving site where the tree spends the early morning in deep shade and late afternoon in blazing sunlight. Nevertheless, the yellowwood has thrived.

O'Brien says, "Yellowwood trees admittedly have a maddening branching habit, generally doing fine until the tree is about chest height, when multiple leaders and included bark become quite common. Judicious and timely pruning can help, though at a certain point, it is probably reasonable to just accept that good branching structure is not this tree's strong suit. Yellowwood's other positive attributes clearly outweigh this one idiosyncrasy and I would suggest that the value and benefit this beautiful tree provides makes consideration for planting worthwhile in many urban areas."

A pink-flowering cultivar 'Perkins Pink' is available but may be challenging to find. The SMA recognizes the underutilized and strongly ornamental yellowwood for its service to urban forests and encourages its use when matched appropriately to site and as part of a diverse urban tree inventory.



*"Spring is when you feel like whistling even
with a shoe full of slush."*

- Doug Larson

*"The wonder is that we can see these trees and not wonder more."
- Ralph Waldo Emerson*

INTRODUCING YOUR MFS DISTRICT FORESTERS

Now that the calendar page has turned to March, it's a good time to ask: "Do you know who your District Forester is?" There are currently 10 District Foresters, covering the entire state of Maine.

District Foresters are the Maine Forest Service's point persons for contact with woodland owners, loggers and foresters, and the citizenry at large. District Foresters lead educational workshops and woods tours, talk to school children and community groups, and work with private foresters and loggers to implement good woodland management. Most important, they can meet with you in your woods, and help you take the next step to achieve your goals for your land.



**Merle Ring,
West Paris**

Merle grew up in western Maine in the small town of Bryant Pond. Like many foresters-to-be, he roamed the woods around his house throughout his early and teen years.

Following a stint in the military after high school, Merle attended the University of Maine, graduating in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry. During his college years Merle worked summers for the Woodlands Department of the former Oxford Paper Company in Rumford, which helped him make his final decision to pursue a career in forestry.

After graduating college and working a year for the Maine DOT, Merle joined the Maine Forest Service in October of 1977, and has worked there ever since. He started as a Project Forester working for the Utilization and Marketing Division, specializing in secondary wood manufacturing in Maine. This task took him throughout Maine, meeting and working

Did you know you can always find the Forest & Shade Tree - Insect & Disease Conditions for Maine online? Visit http://maine.gov/dacf/mfs/publications/condition_reports.html

with wood products mills of all sizes and kinds. He moved on to a project in southern Maine reclaiming areas of poor quality trees and replanting them to white pine, followed by another project in northern Maine working with spruce and fir utilization. Merle moved back to western Maine in the mid-1980's to take over as District Forester for Oxford County, where he remains to this day. To date, Merle has worked for MFS for 38 years.

Merle is and has been active with many organizations over the years, including the Western Maine Forest Forum (past president); past president and current vice president of the Western Maine chapter of the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine (SWOAM); Cooperative Extension (past board member for Oxford County) and the current board chairman of the Oxford County Soil and Water Conservation District. He also chairs the Education Committee for the Maine Association of Conservation Districts (MACD), which oversees the Maine Envirothon program. Merle is actively involved in Project Learning Tree, a state-wide education program sponsored locally by the Maine Tree Foundation.

When all that leaves him a little spare time, Merle owns and manages a 16 ac. woodlot in Otisfield.

Merle's contact information and the towns he covers can be found [here](#).

As always, you can call the Maine Forest Service for more information or assistance at 800 367-0223 (in state) or (207) 287-2791, or e-mail forestinfo@maine.gov

March:

21 Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop, Shelter Institute
22 Maine Maple Sunday
24 Forestry night 2015, Houlton Winter Agriculture School
25 Forestry for Maine Birds, Viles Arboretum
25 Women and Our Woods Forest Guild., Wells Reserve
29 MOFGA's Annual Seed and Scion Swap, Unity

April:

11 Grafting Fruit Trees, MOFGA, Unity

May:

18-24 Maine Arbor Week

*"Oak trees come out of acorns, no matter how unlikely that seems. An acorn is just a tree's way back into the ground. For another try. Another trip through. One life for another."
- Shirley Ann Grau*

Find us on the web at projectcanopy.me, on Facebook at [facebook.com/ProjectCanopy](https://www.facebook.com/ProjectCanopy) or on twitter [@ProjectCanopy](https://twitter.com/ProjectCanopy)

"The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month."

- Henry Van Dyke, Fisherman's Luck

Community Wrap-up

LEAP into Pruning this Spring



On a nice chilly, cloudy March afternoon, Kim Ballard, Outreach Director for Project Canopy and Patty Cormier, District Forester with the Maine Forest Service worked with a group of folks pruning apple trees. The group was part of LEAP, or Life Enrichment Advancing People in Farmington. LEAP is a group of dedicated folks supporting people with developmental, cognitive and intellectual disabilities to be actively involved in their home communities. LEAP received a Project Canopy grant last year for work on apple trees, releasing and pruning all along their fitness/wellness trail in Farmington. Along this trail are many suppressed wild apple trees in need of TLC which the volunteers have been working on. This trail is for LEAP clients as well as for community members to enjoy. Kim and Patty explained the benefits of pruning in general, and Kim demonstrated on a few specimens what to do and not to do when pruning fruit/shade urban trees. Patty covered the finer points of pruning forest trees.



"Science has never drummed up quite as effective a tranquilizing agent as a sunny spring day."
- W. Earl Hall

"Good timber does not grow with ease; the stronger the wind, the stronger the trees."
- J. Willard Marriott

2015 ISA Scholarship

The New England Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture (NEC-ISA) will award two \$1,500 scholarships to students in arboriculture, urban forestry, horticulture, botany, entomology, plant pathology, or a related field. Traditionally one scholarship goes to a graduate student and one to an undergraduate student.

Students may either be enrolled at an accredited two or four-year college or university in New England or be residents of New England enrolled in a two or four-year college or university elsewhere. The deadline is April 3.

For more information on eligibility and to download an application, go to: <http://www.newenglandisa.org/scholarships.html>.

Urban Forestry and Arboriculture Online Courses and Degree Programs

Interested in furthering your personal or professional goals by taking an online class? Oregon State University offers a variety of courses that can be taken individually or while working towards an undergraduate degree, graduate certificate or master's degree.

Check out the links below for more information on Spring Quarter 2015 courses and degree offerings for the upcoming 2015/2016 academic year:

Looking for an Urban Forestry credential to advance your career? The application period for Oregon State's new Graduate Certificate in Urban Forestry is now open.

This [one-of-a-kind program](#) delivers a graduate level urban forestry education online.

This 18-credit certificate program includes a variety of required and elective online courses as well as a capstone project designed in cooperation with your adviser. Or, roll the Certificate into a full Master of Natural Resources degree.

Application deadline for the Certificate is August 28th. The deadline for the Master of Natural Resources program is May 1st. Check out [fall registration options](#). Courses begin September 28th.

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